

Field Lacrosse in Canada

In 1867, soon after athletes in Montreal started playing lacrosse, Dr. W. Beers wrote the first set of rules and created the first sport governing organization in Canada to further develop the game. It soon became the most popular sport in Canada.

In the 1920s interest in the game of field lacrosse waned due to the slow pace of play and difficulty in viewing the game. It wasn't until 1967 when Canada hosted an international tournament to coincide with the Centennial celebrations that the game was revived.

In the 1970s Canadian box lacrosse players started to attend US Universities on scholarship to play field lacrosse. A trailblazer from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Mike French, played at Cornell and in 1978, Mike, Stan Cockerton and Bob Flintoff led Team Canada to upset the United States to win the World Championship.

Since the 1980s, lacrosse associations throughout Ontario have included field lacrosse in their programs. The Ontario University Athletic (OUA) program has been running championships for both men's and women's field lacrosse since the 1990s. In addition, hundreds of Ontario men and women each year play NCAA lacrosse with US colleges and universities.

In 2021, the field game is now played in 73 countries and has been a part of the World Games since 2017. Canada is currently ranked #2 in the world in men's and women's lacrosse.

